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**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**

Legal Subcommittee

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Item 8 of the provisional agenda*

**National legislation relevant to the peaceful
exploration and use of outer space**

Schematic overview of national regulatory frameworks for space activities

Note by the Secretariat

1. At its fifty-second session, in 2013, the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space encouraged Member States to provide updates and inputs to the schematic overview of national regulatory frameworks for space activities (A/AC.105/1045, para. 92).
2. The Subcommittee also noted that future updates to the schematic overview would be published by the Secretariat in electronic form on the same web page. In that connection, the Subcommittee requested the Secretariat to provide it, at its fifty-third session, in 2014, with an updated schematic overview of national regulatory frameworks for space activities, including an electronic version for uploading to the above-mentioned web page (A/AC.105/1045, para. 93).
3. The present conference room paper contains a summary of the schematic overview of national regulatory frameworks for space activities. The full document, containing the summary and the complete schematic overview of national regulatory frameworks for space activities is contained on the following web page of the Secretariat:

<http://www.oosa.unvienna.org/oosa/en/SpaceLaw/national/schematic-overview.html>

* A/AC.105/C.2/L.292.



I. Summary of the schematic overview of national regulatory frameworks for space activities

The schematic overview of national regulatory frameworks contained in this document was developed through the multi-year work of the Working Group on National Legislation Relevant to the Peaceful Exploration and Use of Outer Space, on the basis of national legal instruments, and with information and updates provided by Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). The national regulatory frameworks are summarized as follows:

Algeria

- *Presidential Decree No. 02-49 “Creation, organization and functioning of the Algerian Space Agency (ASAL)” of 16 January 2002; Presidential Decree No. 06-225 “Ratifying the Convention for Damage Caused by Space Objects” of 24 June 2006; Presidential Decree No. 06-468 “Ratifying the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space” of 11 December 2006*

Space activities are regulated through the Algerian Space Agency (ASAL) which is responsible for promoting the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space; reinforcing national capacities, ensuring safety and well-being of the national community; contributing to economic, social and cultural development; environment protection and rational management of natural resources.

Argentina

- *National Decree No. 995/91 “Creation of the National Commission on Space Activities” (28 May 1991); National Decree No. 125/95 “Establishment of the National Registry of Space Objects Launched into Outer Space” (25 July 1995)*

Space activities are monitored, managed and administered by the National Commission on Space Activities (CONAE), which inter alia directly supervises a national registry. Operators and owners are obliged to register objects launched by them, as well as to provide information about insurance arrangements. It is also required to submit to the national registry information about anticipated date of disintegration, recovery or loss of contact with the space object. There is a requirement to provide information on precautions taken with regard to non-pollution of outer space, including celestial bodies.

Australia

- *Space Activities Act 1998 (No. 123, 1998); Statutory Rules No. 186, referring to the Space Activities Regulations 2011*

The Minister for Industry and Innovation responsible for the regulation of space activities through authorization under the *Space Activities Act 1998* (this can be done by (i) space license; (ii) launch permit; and (iii) overseas launch certificate).

The approvals cover such matters as launch safety, incident investigations, etc. There are requirements for insurance and financial responsibility imposed on applicants engaged in space activities, as well as assurance in the safety of a space project. The Minister for Industry, and Innovation is also responsible for maintaining a register of space objects.

Austria

- *Austrian Federal Law on the Authorization of Space Activities and the Establishment of a National Space Registry (Austrian Outer Space Act), entered into force on 28 December 2011*

The Act defines its scope of application (material scope as well as territorial and personal jurisdiction), establishes conditions for authorization and sets out supervision of activities of space operators. The Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology is responsible for the authorization and licensing procedures. The Act also covers matters relating to the registration of space objects launched to outer space, the right of recourse of the Government if it has paid compensation for damage caused by a space object, as well as obligatory insurance (which however can be waived if the space activity is in the public interest, i.e. if it serves science, research or education). Particular emphasis is put on the mitigation of space debris so that compliance with the “state of the art” and “internationally recognized guidelines for the mitigation of space debris” is required. The Act also deals with the change of the operator of a space object which requires authorization.

Belarus

- *Decree 609 of the President of the Republic of Belarus of 22 December 2004*

In accordance with Decree 609 of the President of the Republic of Belarus of 22 December 2004 on the implementation of State policy in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes the National Academy of Sciences has been assigned the task of conducting a unified State policy and coordinating and assuring State regulation of the activities of organizations engaged in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purpose, except as regards the planning, allocation, and the effective use of the radio frequency spectrum.

Belgium

- *Law on the activities of launching, flight operations or guidance of space objects of 17 September 2005; Royal Decree implementing certain provisions of the Law of 17 September 2005 on the activities of launching, flight operations and guidance of space objects form the legal basis for the regulation of space activities*

The King and various Ministers are responsible for the regulation of space activities which include launching, flight operations and guidance of space objects carried out by natural or legal persons in the zones placed under the jurisdiction or control of the Belgian State or using installations, personal or real property owned by the Belgian State or which are under its jurisdiction or its control. The Minister is responsible for space research and its applications in the framework of international cooperation, maintains the National register of space objects. Safety measures to be

undertaken by actors of space activities are established by the laws. There are conditions regarding the transfer to a third party of authorized activities or real or personal rights, including guarantee rights, which transfers the effective control of a space object.

Brazil

- *Law 8.854 of February 10, 1994; Law 9.112 of October 10, 1995; Decree 1.953 of July 10, 1996; Administrative Edict n. 27 of June 20, 2001; Administrative Edit n.5 of February 21, 2002; Resolution No. 51 of 26 January 2001; Administrative Edict n. 96 of 30 November 2011*

The Brazilian Space Agency is responsible for controlling, monitoring and supervising space activities. There are conditions for granting a license for performing a launch from the territory of Brazil. A license is only be granted to legal persons, associated or affiliated with business or legal representation in the country, with express powers to respond administratively or judicially and considered technically and administratively qualified to perform launching activities. A legal person shall prove that it is licensed by its country of origin to conduct space activities, according to the provisions of Article VI of the Outer Space Treaty. The legislation also contains procedures for the provision and operation of the registration of space objects launched into outer space under the responsibility of the Brazilian Government.

Canada

- *Canadian Space Agency Act (1990, c. 13); Canadian Aviation Regulations (SOR/96-433); Civil International Space Station Agreement Implementation Act; Remote Sensing Systems Act and Regulations; Radiocommunications Act*

Authorization and supervision of national space activities are performed under the auspices of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and Ministry of Transport and through the Canadian Space Agency which, inter alia, may exercise its powers, and perform its duties and functions, in relation to all matters concerning space over which Parliament has jurisdiction and that are not by or pursuant to law assigned to any other department, board or agency of the Government of Canada.

Chile

- *Supreme Decree No. 338, Establishment of a Presidential Advisory Committee known as Chilean Space Agency, amended by Supreme Decree No. 0144 of December 29, 2008, being now the Chilean Space Agency presided by the undersecretary of Economy*

Advice in all matters concerning the identification, formulation and implementation of policies, plans, programmes, measures and other activities relating to space, as well as coordination of centre for Government organizations involved in this field, is done by the Chilean Space Agency which cooperates, when required, with other governmental entities and officials.

China

- *Measures for the Administration of Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space of 8 February 2001; Interim Measures on the Administration of Permits for Civil Space Launch Projects of 21 December 2002; Interim measures on Administration of Mitigation of and Protection against Space Debris*

The State Administration of Science Technology and Industry for National Defence, Commission of Science Technology and Industry for National Defence (COSTIND) are assigned to deal with regulation of the administration of the project of launching civil space objects, promoting the sound development of the civil space industry, maintaining national security and the public interests, and fulfilling the obligations of China as a contracting State to the international outer space conventions. Territorial jurisdiction is defined. There are also procedures of registration of space objects in a national register for cases when an object is launched from the territory of China, as well as when a space object jointly launched by China and other State(s). Licenses shall not be altered or transferred.

Colombia

- *Decree 2442, of July 2006 on the creation of the Colombian Commission of Space (CCE)*

The Colombian Commission of Space (CCE) is established to deal with consultation, coordination, orientation and planning with the purpose of guiding the execution of a national policy for the development and application of space technologies and to coordinate plans, programs and projects in the field. Decree No. 2442 of 18 July 2006, creating the Colombian Space Commission as an intersectoral agency with consultancy, coordination, guidance and planning functions, responsible for guiding the implementation of national policy for the development and application of space technologies and for coordinating the design of related plans, programmes and projects.

Finland

Government funded space activities are governed in a distributed manner by Finnish Space Committee under the Ministry of Economy. Finland operates no wwon satellites, Finnish government funded space activities are performed through European Space Agency, EUMETSAT, European Commission's space programmes and sometimes in bilateral arrangements.

France

- *French Space Operations Act, No. 2008-518 (2008); Decree No. 2009-644 of 9 June 2009, modifying Decree No. 84-510 of 28 June 1984, relating to CNES; Decree No. 2009-643 of 9 June 2008; Decree No. 2009-640 of 9 June 2009*

Continuous supervision and control is extended to French natural or juridical persons, juridical persons whose headquarters is located in France, which is intended to conduct, from national territory or from means or facilities falling under French jurisdiction, any activity consisting in launching, attempting to launch or intending to procure the launch of an object into outer space, or of ensuring the

commanding of a space object during its journey in outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, and, if necessary, during its return to Earth and transfer of a space object which has been authorized under the French space law, transfer of control of a space object whose launching has not been authorized under the French space law. In the event France has a registration obligation according to Article II of the Registration Convention or of other international agreements, the launched space objects are registered in a registry maintained by the Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales (CNES).

Germany

- *Act to give Protection against the Security Risk to the Federal Republic of Germany by the Dissemination of High-Grade Earth Remote Sensing Data (Satellite Data Security Act — SatDSiG), 2007*

The law deals with operation by German nationals or by legal persons or associations of persons under German law, of high-grade earth remote sensing systems and handling of data generated by such systems until the moment of their dissemination. Activities in this field require licence or permit and are subject of supervision through inspection and access to operator's information.

Italy

- *Law No. 23, 25 January 1983, Norms for the implementation for the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects (Official Gazette No.35, 5 February, 1983); Law No. 153, 12 July 2005, Registration of objects launched into outer space. (Official Gazette No. 177, 1 August 2005)*

The national space-related legislation deals with questions relating to liability for space activities, implementing and complementing at national level the provisions established by the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects. Space activities are mainly implemented by the Italian Space Agency (ASI) which, *inter alia*, is entrusted with the institution and maintenance of the National Registry, as well as the collection of all information according to the Registration Convention.

Japan

- *Basic Space Law (Law No.43, 2008 of 28 May 2008); The Law concerning Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (Law No. 161 of 13th December 2002)*

The Government exercises continuous supervision over activities of a space agency which conducts space-related activities. The Government also maintains a register of space objects and is involved in the planning, review and authorization of space activities. Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) is obliged to seek a compulsory insurance and special liability arrangements to prepare for possible third-party damages caused by the launching activities.

Netherlands

- *Rules Concerning Space Activities and the Establishment of a Registry of Space Objects (Space Activities Act) of 24 January 2007; Decree containing*

rules with regard to a registry of information concerning space objects (Space Objects Registry Decree) of 13 November 2007; Order concerning licence applications for the performance of space activities and the registration of space objects of 7 February 2008, as amended by Order of 16 April 2010

The launch, the flight operation and the guidance of space objects in outer space, performed in or from are in focus of the national space-relating norms. The Netherlands Space Agency is designated to conduct supervision of compliance with the provisions relating to licensing, incidents and registration, and to maintain a register of objects launched to outer space. A space operator must obtain a license for performing space activities. Licence is issued by the Minister of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation. It can be refused or revoked, and is not transferable. The space operator must provide the maximum possible cover for potential liability arising from its space activities.

Nigeria

- National Space Research and Development Agency (NASDRA) Act 2010

The Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria conducts supervision and authorization of space activities through NASDRA and National Space Council which are responsible, among other things, for capacity building in space science technology management and development, developing satellite technology, building and launching of space objects, licensing, and maintaining a register of space objects.

Norway

- Act on launching objects from Norwegian territory into outer space. (No. 38, 13 June. 1969)

A designated competent Ministry regulates the launch of objects into outer space from the Norwegian territory, issues permissions for launches, and can issue regulations on control of the launch of any object into outer space from Norwegian territory.

Republic of Korea

- Space Development Promotion Act of 1 December 2005; Space Liability Act (Law 8714 of 21 December 2007)

The Government plans and implements overall policies for space development through the Ministry of Science and Technology, the National Space Committee, which supervise national space activities, conducted by legal and natural persons which, when they are intended to launch a space object (excluding space launch vehicles) inside or outside of the country, must obtain a permit, make a preliminary registration and insure against any liability.

Russian Federation

- *Law on Space Activity, Federal Law No. 5663-1 (1993, as amended); Statute on Licensing Space Operations, Federal Government Decree No. 104 (1996)*

Organizations and citizens of the Russian Federation, and foreign organizations and citizens under the jurisdiction of the Russian Federation, which are intended to conduct any activities directly connected with operations to explore and use outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, scientific space research, use of space technology for communications, manufacturing of materials and products in outer space, preparation for launch or launch of space objects etc., shall be required (a) to obtain a license, which can be suspended or annulled, (b) to take out compulsory insurance coverage for the life and health of the cosmonauts and personnel of space infrastructure facilities and shall also bear liability for damage causing death or injury of other persons or damage to their property, (c) ensure that space activities shall be performed with due reference to the permissible level of man-made contamination of the environment and circumterrestrial space. Space activities are continuously supervised by the Russian Space Agency (ROSCOSMOS).

South Africa

- *Space Affairs Act, No. 84 (1993); Space Affairs Amendment Act, No. 64 (1995); South African National Space Act 36 of 2008*

The South African National Space Agency is designated to promote the peaceful use of space, support the creation of an environment conducive to industrial development in space technology, foster research in space science, advance scientific competencies, and to foster international cooperation in space-related activities.

Spain

- *Royal Decree 278/1995, dated 24th February 1995, establishing in the Kingdom of Spain the Registry foreseen in the Convention adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 2 November 1974*

Space-related norms deal with (quasi-)territorial and personal jurisdiction over launches carried out from Spain or Spanish facilities, and establish a national register of objects launched into outer space, which is maintained by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Sweden

- *Act on Space Activities (1982:963); Decree on Space Activities (1982:1069)*

The National Board for Space Activities (now Swedish National Space Board) maintains a register of space objects and exercises control of space activities carried on by those who have licenses for such activities, which include: activities in outer space, launching of objects into outer space, all measures to manoeuvre or in any other way affect objects launched into outer space. Explicitly excluded from the scope of application are the reception of signals or information in some other form from objects in outer space and the launching of sounding rockets.

Ukraine

- *Law of Ukraine on Space Activity, No. 503/96-VR, 1996*

The Ukrainian National Space Agency, the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine and other executive authorities are involved in the supervision and control through, inter alia, licensing and certification, of space activities that are defined as scientific space research, the design and application of space technology and the use of outer space, and are conducted in Ukraine or under the jurisdiction of Ukraine outside its borders.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

- *Outer Space Act (1986)*

The Secretary of State and the British National Space Centre (now United Kingdom Space Agency) are involved in the supervision and authorization of space activities through maintaining a register of space objects, inspecting space activities and issuing licenses, which can be revoked, varied and/or suspended. The Act covers space activities, which are defined as “launching or procuring the launch of a space object, operating a space object and any other activity in outer space” and are “carried on in the United Kingdom or elsewhere” by “all United Kingdom’s nationals (including citizens of British dependent territories, British overseas citizens and British nationals located overseas), Scottish firms, and bodies incorporated under the law of any part of the United Kingdom”.

United States of America

- *Title 51 of the U.S.C.; 14 C.F.R. 400-499; NPR 8715.6A; NASA-STD 8719.14; U.S. Government Orbital Debris Mitigation Standard Practices; Title 47 of the U.S.C.; 47 C.F.R. Parts 5, 25, and 97; Order, FCC 04-130; 47 C.F.R. 25.160-162*

Any citizen of or entity organized under the laws of the United States, as well as other entities, as defined by space-related regulations, which are intended to conduct in the United States a launch of a launch vehicle, operation of a launch or re-entry site, re-entry of a re-entry vehicle, should obtain a license from the Secretary of Transportation, which may be of various types and may be modified, suspended or revoked (51 U.S.C. 50904-50906). No person that is subject to the jurisdiction or control of the United States may, directly or through any subsidiary or affiliate, operate any private remote sensing space system without a license, which may be modified, suspended or revoked by the Secretary of Commerce (51 U.S.C. 60121-60123). No person shall use or operate an apparatus for the transmission of energy or communications to or from the United States, or by a mobile station under the jurisdiction of the United States, except under, and in accordance with, an appropriate authorization granted by the Federal Communications Commission. A launch authorization and station license must be applied for and granted before a space station may be launched and operated. The FCC may terminate station authorizations in accordance with 47 C.F.R. 25.160-162.

Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

- Law on the Establishment of the Bolivarian Agency for Space Activities (Official Gazette No. 38.796 of 25 October 2007); Decree number 3.389 of December 2004; Decree No. 4.114 of 28 November 2005

The Bolivarian Agency for Space Activities is a public entity and it is mandated to formulate policies relating to space activities, including scientific research and technological development.
